

1 Peter 2:21 says, "For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example and you must follow in his footsteps." You know, reflecting on Jim's life has impacted us all this week. It has impacted me and challenged me to think about being the best person I can be. So I've asked myself some tough questions. Am I following in Jesus Christ's footsteps? Am I following in Jim Smith's footsteps? Can I be a man that cares for my community like Jim Smith cared for this community? Can I be a man that loves my children like Jim Smith loved Zander and Jazlyn? Can I be a man that loves my wife like Jim loved his wife, Kathy? And can I be a man that loves the Lord Jesus Christ, like Jim Smith loved the Lord, his God? We love you Jim, we will see you again.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SHEPLER

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today to honor John Shepler, an outstanding public servant who has served both my office and the citizens of West Virginia well in his 21-year career with the Internal Revenue Service. John is retiring from his position as taxpayer advocate in order to spend more time with his family and enjoy the next stage of his life.

During his 10 years as taxpayer advocate, John was a valuable resource to my office and West Virginia's citizens. He was well informed, quick to respond, and straightforward in his dealings as he advocated on behalf of his clients. He was a dedicated employee, fully committed to his many responsibilities. He was a pleasure to work with, and my staff were always confident that John was providing top-level service, regardless of the issue.

John also served his country through his military service with the U.S. Air Force, serving 6 years as a missile facilities specialist. A dedicated public servant, John has served his country and his community continually throughout his adult life.

John is the proud parent of daughter and a son, living in Little Hocking, OH, and Houston, TX, respectively. I am sure he is looking forward to spending more time with his five grandchildren, as well as with his favorite pastimes: hunting deer and turkey, fishing, and camping.

I would like to thank John for his service and wish him well in his next phase of life. My staff will miss working with him at the IRS, but we are all happy that we had him as long as we did to provide excellent service to the citizens of West Virginia. Good Luck, John. Thank you again for your commitment to our State.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING AUSTIN SORENSEN KLEIN

• Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Austin Sorensen Klein, a son, younger brother, and friend gone too soon. Austin's loved ones remember him as a

young man full of energy, talent, and passion for trying and conquering new things.

Austin loved to sing. He was known throughout the Overland Park community as a vocal talent. After winning the 2015 KC Superstar competition, he went on to pursue music through the men's glee club at the University of Notre Dame and then the a cappella group at the University of Texas-Austin. Anyone who knew Austin and heard him sing will remember his sonorous voice and how his joy for music was contagious.

Austin was a kind, intelligent, patient young man who loved to learn and loved even more to make people laugh. He was a reader and, in many ways, a budding philosopher. Austin enjoyed traveling with his close family; they hiked the Black Hills and Yellowstone, toured Disney World and Washington, DC, and explored Europe, Australia, and New Zealand together. I know his parents Greg and Sue, who are dear friends to me and Senator THUNE, and his brothers Kevin and Keith will treasure these memories forever. Our community hurts with them as they navigate life without their beloved son and brother.

After a brief but remarkable life, Austin passed away on March 3, 2021. I want to extend my sincerest condolences to the Klein family and Austin's friends who mourn as they miss and remember Austin's voice, his laugh, and the joy he brought to everyone he knew. May we all learn from Austin's example to live every day to the fullest, hold close those who are dear to us, and do the things we love most.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:55 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 241. An act to reauthorize the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998.

H.R. 473. An act to require a review of Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1083. An act to require a strategy for engagement with Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

H.R. 1996. An act to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 473. An act to require a review of Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1083. An act to require a strategy for engagement with Southeast Asia and the As-

sociation of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1996. An act to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1216. A bill to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances.

H.R. 7. An act to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 241. An act to reauthorize the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, April 20, 2021, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 164. An act to educate health care providers and the public on biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 415. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity.

S. 578. An act to improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders, including potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, and eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-707. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revolving Fund Program - Water and Environmental Provisions of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018" (RIN0572-AC52) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-708. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Status Report on the Destruction of the United States Stockpile of Lethal Chemical Agents and Munitions for Fiscal Year 2020"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-709. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Department of Defense Annual Report on

Audit for Fiscal Year 2020” ; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-710. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the mobilizations of selected reserve units, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2021; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-711. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Administrative Requirements Terms and Conditions for Cost-Type Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Nonprofit and Government Entities” (RIN0790-AJ49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 12, 2021; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-712. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Council’s 2020 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-713. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-714. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014, with respect to South Sudan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-715. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Waiver of the Water Quality Certification Requirements of Section 401 (a) (1) of the Clean Water Act” (Docket No. RM20-18-000) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-716. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Idaho; 2010 Sulfur Dioxide NAAQS Interstate Transport Requirements” (FRL No. 10021-86-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 12, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-717. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the National Security Education Program (NSEP) for fiscal year 2020; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-718. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “New Evidence” (RIN2900-AR12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-719. A communication from the Regulation Policy Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Billing and Collection by VA for Medical Care and Services” (RIN2900-AQ69) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April

1, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-720. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Prosthetic and Rehabilitative Items and Services” (RIN2900-AP46) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-721. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD): Musculoskeletal System and Muscle Injuries” (RIN2900-AP88) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-722. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Amendments” (RIN2900-AR08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-723. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance - Family Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance: Member Married to Member” (RIN2900-AQ37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-724. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “VA Acquisition Regulation: Foreign Acquisition” (RIN2900-AQ79) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-725. A communication from the Yeoman Petty Officer First Class, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Arkansas River, Mile Marker 126.6, Little Rock, Arkansas” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0123)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-726. A communication from the Yeoman Petty Officer First Class, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Red River, Mile Marker 59, Moncla, Louisiana” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0021)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-727. A communication from the Yeoman Petty Officer First Class, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Red River, Mile Marker 59, Moncla, Louisiana” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0125)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 1, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-728. A communication from the Yeoman Petty Officer First Class, U.S. Coast

Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Mile Marker 368 through 370, Natchez, Mississippi” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0071)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-729. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Television Broadcasting Services; Columbia, Missouri” (MB Docket No. 20-248) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-730. A communication from the Associate Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Facilitating Shared Use in the 3100-3550 MHz Band” (WT Docket No. 19-348) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-731. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 59th Annual Report of the activities of the Federal Maritime Commission for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-732. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “MCPA; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 10020-79-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-733. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties” (31 CFR Parts 501, 510, 535, 536, 539, 541, 542, 544, 546, 547, 548, 549, 552, 560, 561, 566, 576, 583, 584, 588, 592, 594, 597, and 598) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-734. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-735. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Guidance for Resolution Plan Submissions of Certain Foreign-Based Covered Companies” (RIN3064-ZA15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-736. A communication from the Congressional Assistant, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Role of Supervisory Guidance” (RIN7100-AF48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-737. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Loan Programs Office, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled “Policies and Procedures for Loan Guarantees for Projects that Employ Innovative Technologies and for Direct Loans Under the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Program” (RIN1910-AA54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-738. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Electricity, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Materials Allocation and Priority Performance Under Contracts or Orders to Maximize Domestic Energy Supplies and Energy Priorities and Allocations System; Administrative Updates to Personnel References” ((RIN1901-AB52) (10 CFR Parts 216 and 217)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-739. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Establishment of a New Product Class for Residential Dishwashers” ((RIN1904-AE35) (10 CFR Part 430)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-740. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Cooking Products” ((RIN1904-AE36) (10 CFR Part 430)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-741. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Test Procedure Interim Waiver Process” ((RIN1904-AE24) (10 CFR Parts 430 and 431)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-742. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program for Appliance Standards: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Furnaces” ((RIN1904-AE39) (10 CFR Parts 430 and 431)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-743. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program for Appliance Standards: Procedures for Evaluating Statutory Factors for Use in New or Revised Energy Conservation Standards” ((RIN1904-AE84) (10 CFR Part 430)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-744. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Definition of Showerhead” ((RIN1904-AE85) (10 CFR Parts 430)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-745. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Establishment of New Product Classes for Residential Clothes Washers and Consumer Clothes Dryers” ((RIN1904-AE86) (10 CFR Parts 430)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-746. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers” ((RIN1904-AF02) (10 CFR Parts 431)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-747. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Fluorescent Lamp Ballasts” ((RIN1904-AD51) (10 CFR Part 430)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-748. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Small Electric Motors and Electric Motors” ((RIN1904-AE18) (10 CFR Part 431)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-749. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Fluorescent Lamp Ballasts” ((RIN1904-AD67) (10 CFR Parts 429 and 430)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-750. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Room Air Conditioners” ((RIN1904-AD47) (10 CFR Parts 429 and 430)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-751. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Small Electric Motors” ((RIN1904-AD29) (10 CFR Part 431)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-752. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures” (RIN1990-AA49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to

the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-753. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Procedures for the Issuance of Guidance Documents” (RIN1990-AA50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-754. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Acquisition, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Financial Assistance Regulations - Deviation Authority” ((RIN1991-AC15) (2 CFR Part 910)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-755. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Acquisition, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Financial Assistance Regulations - Deviation Authority” ((RIN1991-AC15) (2 CFR Part 910)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-756. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Quality Designations for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard - Round 4 - Supplemental Amendment” (FRL No. 10022-22-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-757. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Nuclear Safety Management” ((RIN1992-AA57) (10 CFR Part 830)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-758. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; West Virginia; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the West Virginia Portion of the Wheeling, West Virginia-Ohio Area Comprising Marshall and Ohio Counties” (FRL No. 10022-11-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-759. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Rhode Island; Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions” (FRL No. 10022-16-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-760. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; New Mexico and Albuquerque-Bernalillo County, New Mexico; Control of Emissions from Existing Other Solid Waste Incineration Units” (FRL No. 10021-41-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2021;

to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-761. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Finalizing Medicare Regulations under Section 902 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003 For Calendar Year 2020"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-762. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report to Congress on the Open Payments Program"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-763. A communication from the Assistant Legal Advisor for Treaty Affairs, Department to State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of International Agreements other than Treaties entered into with Taiwan by the American Institute in Taiwan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-764. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-765. A communication from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-6. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine urging the Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service to include certain nonfood essentials in the supplemental nutrition assistance program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SENATE PAPER 312

Whereas, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, is a federally governed and funded program under the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service with shared state administration; and

Whereas, SNAP currently provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of qualifying recipients so they can purchase healthy food but fails to account for nonfood essentials, including toilet paper, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and menstrual products; and

Whereas, toilet paper, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and menstrual products are essential products needed for human dignity and health; and

Whereas, if a person struggles with access to food, that person likely also struggles with access to nonfood essentials; and

Whereas, a person who does not have access to nonfood essentials, especially menstrual products and toilet paper, may be forced to use inappropriate and unsafe alternatives, thereby putting that person's health and the health of the person's reproductive system at risk; and

Whereas, a person without access to nonfood essentials cannot equitably participate in work, the search for employment or many other activities due to the risk of embarrassment such as from odors or bleeding through clothing; and

Whereas, a person who lives in an abusive situation has an increased likelihood of hav-

ing difficulty accessing menstrual products and other nonfood essentials; and

Whereas, it is a matter of human justice and dignity for recipients of SNAP benefits to be granted the authority to determine what essentials they most need; and

Whereas, the residents of this State who qualify for SNAP benefits have essential needs beyond food and should therefore be granted the dignity to select how to expend their SNAP benefits based upon their essential needs; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service enter into rulemaking to amend the stated goal of SNAP to "raising the level of nutrition and essential-need stability among low-income households and maintaining adequate levels of nutrition and nonfood-essentials supplies by increasing the food and nonfood-essentials purchasing power of low-income families"; and be it further

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service enter into rulemaking to expand the scope of SNAP benefits to include the following nonfood essentials for recipient purchase: toilet paper, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and menstrual products, including but not limited to tampons, pads, liners and reusable cups, underwear and shields; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States, for consideration in the federal budgeting process; to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service; to the Nutrition Service Administrator, United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service; to the Food and Nutrition Service Associate Administrator of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service; to the Northeast Regional Office of the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service; to the President of the United States Senate; to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States; to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation; and to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services.

POM-7. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to eliminate the Windfall Elimination Provision that penalizes Maine state retirees; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE PAPER 332

Whereas, under current federal law, individuals who receive a Social Security benefit and a public retirement benefit derived from employment not covered under Social Security are subject to a reduction in the Social Security benefits; and

Whereas, these laws, contained in the federal Social Security Act, 42 United States Code, Chapter 7, Subchapter II, Federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Benefits, and known as the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision, greatly affect public employees, particularly women; and

Whereas, the Windfall Elimination Provision reduces by a formula the Social Security benefit of a person who is also receiving a pension from a public employer that does not participate in Social Security; and

Whereas, the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision are

particularly burdensome on the finances of low-income and moderate-income public service workers, such as school teachers, clerical workers and school cafeteria employees, whose wages are low to start; and

Whereas, the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision both unfairly reduce benefits for those public employees and their spouses whose careers cross the line between the private and public sectors; and

Whereas, since many lower-paying public service jobs are held by women, both the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision have a disproportionately adverse effect on women; and

Whereas, in some cases, additional support in the form of income, housing, heating and prescription drug and other safety net assistance from state and local governments is needed to make up for the reductions imposed at the federal level; and

Whereas, other participants in Social Security do not have their benefits reduced in this manner; and

Whereas, to participate or not to participate in Social Security in public sector employment is a decision of employers, even though both the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision directly punish employees and their spouses; and

Whereas, although the Government Pension Offset was enacted in 1977 and the Windfall Elimination Provision was enacted in 1983, many of the benefits in dispute were paid into Social Security prior to that time; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States work together to support reform proposals that include the following protections for low-income and moderate-income government retirees:

1. Protections permitting retention of a combined public pension and Social Security benefit with no applied reductions;

2. Protections permanently ensuring that level of benefit by indexing it to inflation; and

3. Protections ensuring that no current recipient's benefit is reduced by the reform legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States; the President of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-8. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to establish a national infrastructure bank; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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Whereas, the American Society of Civil Engineers states in its 2017 Report Card that the United States received a grade of D+ regarding the current state of infrastructure and that more than \$4.5 trillion would be needed to restore the nation's infrastructure to a state of good repair, over \$2 trillion in new infrastructure projects is currently not funded by the Federal Government and the remainder of infrastructure projects is inadequately funded; and

Whereas, the Maine Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the State a grade of C- in 2020, including dams, D+; hazardous waste, D+; roads, D; transit, D+; and wastewater, D+; and

Whereas, the state highway system projects a drastic funding shortfall due to